

NSC BRIEFING

19 April 1955

Army review(s) completed.

KOREAN ORDER OF BATTLE

I. General trends during past year.

- A. Gradual buildup of North Korean ground strength since the armistice has continued, permitting assumption of additional responsibility along the Demilitarized Zone, and expansion of forces defending vulnerable points along the coast.
- B. Concurrently, reduction of Chinese Communist forces in North Korea continued throughout the period. Increases in North Korean ground strength have not offset the Chinese withdrawals, resulting in a marked decrease in overall Communist ground strength in North Korea.

Chinese ground forces in Korea.

- A. As of a year ago: 13 armies, 741,000 men.
- B. During past year, 6 and possibly 7 armies believed to have withdrawn from Korea. No firm figures are available on present strength, but it is believed to be in the neighborhood of 400,000. G-2 has

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not revised its figures to reflect recent changes.

IV. North Korean ground forces.

- A. As of a year ago: 6 corps, 346,000 men.
- B. During past year, combat forces have increased, while some construction units have been deactivated. Strength now carried at 328,000. However, figures are not believed to be valid, and overall strength may have increased slightly.

V. North Korea air forces.

- A. As of a year ago: 170 MIG-15's, 45 IL-28's, 15-30 TU-2's, 80-100 conventional ground attack aircraft.

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VI. Communist air forces--Manchuria

- A. As of a year ago: Sino-Soviet jet strength near Yalu numbered about 550 MIG-15's and 130 IL-28's.
- B. Current Chinese Communist air strength at Manchurian bases near the Yalu includes about 110 MIG-15's and 50-60 IL-28 jet bombers.

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